

**Communications  
Workers of America**  
AFL-CIO, CLC

501 Third Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2797  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ORIGINAL

July 22, 1998

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Ex Parte Notice  
CC Docket No. 96-262 (Access Charge Reform) and CC Docket No. 94-1 (Price Cap  
Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers)**

Dear Ms. Salas:

On July 22, 1998, the Communications Workers of America mailed a study by the Economic Policy Institute on "The Consequences of the FCC Price Cap Decision" to Thomas Power, Legal Advisor to the Chairman. The study was previously filed with the Secretary for inclusion in the public record of the above-mentioned proceedings on September 17, 1997.

In accordance with the Commission's rules, I file two copies of this letter with the Secretary.

Sincerely,

*Debbie Goldman*

Debbie Goldman, Research Economist  
Research and Development Department

cc: Thomas Power

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July 22, 1998

Mr. Thomas Power  
Legal Advisor to the Chairman  
FCC  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Power:

Last year, CWA requested that the Economic Policy Institute analyze the FCC's decision in CC Docket No. 94-1 to set a 6.5 percent annual productivity factor for access charge price caps. In light of the Chairman's recent expression of interest in further reductions in access charges, I thought you might be interested in reviewing the study.

CWA is concerned that any reductions in access charges based on wrong productivity assumptions would result in intensified pressures by incumbent LECs to extract wage and benefit concessions from workers in the industry.

Thank you for your careful review of this material.

Sincerely,



Debbie Goldman, Research Economist  
Research and Development Department

cc: George Kohl